

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Resistance Activities

DATE DISTR: 30 April 1948

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

1. Following are several reports of anti-Communist activity in the vicinity of Asenovgrad and Topolovgrad:

- a. A bank was robbed by an opposition group which took 4,000,000 leva.
- b. Four militia men were killed by the resistance group.
- c. Anton Yugov visited the city with both militia and army units, and fighting took place between the peasants and army units. A number were killed on each side.
- d. Resistance fighters are said to have taken the overcoats of 200 labor conscripts. They are also said to have raided storehouses containing food for the Greek Andartes.
- e. A doctor who aided the resistance groups was said to have been hanged, and a miner who gave them food was beaten almost to death.

2. [REDACTED] was unable to verify any of the above reports. It is said, however, that eight persons, including the mayor of the town, were of the opposition and aided resistance fighters whose names are not known. Four of the above eight men were taken by the militia and sent to the Kutsian concentration camp while the other four, including the mayor, have disappeared. It is possible that they managed to cross the Greek border.

3. On 25 March 1948 a group of 400 "Gorani" (resistance fighters, members of VMHO and followers of Ivan Mihailov) made a raid in the town of Gara Pirin. They raided the large warehouse and killed the mayor and two officials. The leader of the group is reported to have been a Colonel Gologanov, who was assisted by a Lieutenant Stambuliev. After the fighting the VMHO fled toward Dekula. In consequence a large contingent of militia was sent to Gara Pirin from Sofia and returned to Sofia on 29 March with 300 "Yatak" (people who have given aid to anti-Communist fighters). These prisoners, who are allegedly in the Sofia Central Prison, are to be tried and shot.

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4. On 26 March, 17 "Gorani" were killed by the militia. Among these were:

Toma Manikarov

Yordan Ruzichev (he killed the secretary of the Communist Party of Ploeki about a year ago)

Alexi Georgiev of Ploeki

Gergo Gergov of Djigurovo

Stoyan Gergov, brother of Gergo

5. On 7 March 1948 six men of the resistance, armed with Schmeizers, allegedly attempted to capture a Red Cross airplane which comes every day from Sofia to the airport between Sharbanovo and Kernalovo. All were captured and executed.
6. A former Lieutenant Colonel named Risov, who was serving a three-year sentence in the Sliven prison, has escaped. He is said to be hiding out in the Pirin mountains near the Greek border.

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